DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 366 851 CG 024 891

TITLE Strengthening Families by Involving Communities: A Report on [a Conference on] Runaway and Homeless Youth in Alaska (2nd, Anchorage, Alaska, October 5-6, 1992).

INSTITUTION Alaska State Dept. of Health and Social Services, Juneau. Div. of Family and Youth Services.

PUB DATE Mar 93

NOTE 45p.

PUB TYPE Collected Works - Conference Proceedings (021)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Adolescents; Children; *Community Involvement; *Family Relationship; *Homeless People; *Runaways; *Youth Problems

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the conference summarized in this paper was threefold: to review progress made on behalf of runaway and homeless youth by communities who attended the 1991 conference; to introduce participants to the Target Population Planning Model; and to offer participants workshops on youth problems. Presenters were from the national, state, and local levels, and youth actively participated in the conference. The more than 85 participants attending the conference concluded that runaway and homeless youth remain a serious problem in Alaska. It was estimated that the number of Alaskan youth who run away from home each year has increased from 3,500 in 1991 to over 4,500 in 1992, and that over 1,900 Alaskan adolescents are homeless annually. It was determined that Alaskan youth run away at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population than youth nationally; that Alaska's runaways are younger than runaways nationally; and that Alaska's youth are homeless at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population than youth nationally. Conference participants concluded that there remains a critical need for more active local government involvement in finding solutions to the runaway and homeless youth problems in Alaska. This document describes the conference and includes community progress reports and lists of participants. Alaska statutes (Alaska Runaway Law, Alaska Runaway Programs, the Alaska Missing Persons Clearinghouse) are appended. (NB)

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STRENGTHENING FAMILIES BY INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

A Report on Runaway and Homeless Youth In Alaska

MARCH 1993

State of Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Family & Youth Services

Walter J. Hickel
Governor

Theodore A. Mala
Commissioner

Deborah R. Wing
Director

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

THEODORE A. MALA, COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030

March 1, 1993

Dear Alaskans:

Did you know that Alaskan youth run away at younger ages and at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population than youth nationally? These are only two of the revelations to surface as a result of the most recent Runaway and Homeless Youth Conference held in Anchorage in October 1992.

This conference gave local communities the opportunity to review and share in a statewide format the progress each had made over the past year in addressing its local runaway and homeless youth problems. Participants found that the overall problems have not changed. The numbers of runaway and homeless youth have either remained the same or in some communities have increased. No community reported a decrease in the runaway or homeless youth population. Participants estimated that, in Alaska, over 4,500 youth run away from home each year and over 1,900 Alaskan adolescents are homeless annually. What can be done to reduce the problems of these youth and alleviate the types of lifestyles in which these young Alaskans find themselves?

Reports from across the state indicate that there is a growing movement within local communities to consolidate efforts and actively pursue solutions to their runaway and homeless youth problems. A detailed description of individual community efforts can be found in the following report.

The needs of runaway and homeless youth in Alaska are so great that solutions will require joint efforts between local communities and state agencies, and we look forward to being active participants in this process.

For their participation in this report, we thank the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services consultants, DFYS staff members, all conference presenters, and most of all, the people from the local communities who gave of their time and talents.

Sincerely,

Ted Mala

Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Brian L Saylor

Brian Saylor, PhD, MPH
Deputy Commissioner

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Executive Summary

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS), with support from the Department of Education, convened a conference on October 5 and 6, 1992 in Anchorage with a three-fold purpose: to review the progress made on behalf of runaway and homeless youth by communities who attended last year's conference, to introduce participants to the Target Population Planning Model, and to offer conference participants selected workshops related to runaway and homeless youth. The workshops offered were:

- *** Homeless Youth in Rural Alaska
- *** Education Issues on Homeless Youth in Alaska
- *** HIV/AIDS Prevention
- *** Including Youth as Part of the Solution
- *** Building a Network for Youth
- *** Missing and Exploited Children
- *** Strategies for Community Program Development in Alaska

Presenters were from the national, state, and local level and, unlike last year, youth actively participated in this conference as both presenters and participants. Over 85 participants from across the state attended this conference and concluded that runaway and homeless youth remain a serious problem in Alaska. The participants compiled the following estimates:

- *** The number of Alaskan youth who run away from home each year has increased from 3,500 in 1991 to over 4,500 in 1992
- *** Over 1,900 Alaskan adolescents are homeless annually

When the estimated figures on runaway and homeless youth provided by conference participants were compared with national data, the following was concluded:

- *** Alaskan youth run away at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population than youth nationally
- *** Alaska's runaways are younger than runaways nationally
- *** Alaska's youth are homeless at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population than youth nationally

During the conference, participants were grouped into interdisciplinary teams by geographic regions. They found the work group format to be a very effective networking and planning strategy. The team approach yielded concrete information and provided the impetus for groups to move forward in seeking coordinated solutions for the runaway and homeless youth problems. Participants recognized the critical need to involve youth in the process of developing solutions as well as the need for legal clarification on what can be done with runaway and homeless youth who do not want services.

Since the initial conference last year, most communities reported positive movement, either through the establishment of core groups to deal specifically with the concerns of runaway and homeless youth or the revitalization of pre-existing groups dealing with runaway and homeless youth issues. Conference participants noted that, although the issues of runaway and homeless youth must also be addressed at the state level, there remains a critical need for more active local government involvement in finding solutions to the runaway and homeless youth problems in Alaska.

INTRODUCTION

During November and December 1991, the Division of Family and Youth Services convened conferences in Palmer, Kenai, and Kodiak to begin development of a statewide plan to address the issues of runaway and homeless youth in Alaska. With the assistance of Division staff and the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services, professionals and citizens from around the state developed a framework for responding to the serious problem of runaway and homeless youth. The results were published in "Children in Crisis, A Report on Runaway and Homeless Youth in Alaska", submitted by the Department of Health and Social Services to the Governor and Legislature in January 1992.

To facilitate communities' continuing efforts to develop solutions, the Department of Health and Social Services, with support from the Department of Education, held another conference in Anchorage on October 5 and 6, 1992. The purpose of the conference was to review the progress made by communities who attended last year's conference and to offer additional training to participants struggling to address these complex issues surrounding Alaska's runaway and homeless youth populations.

The following nationally recognized definitions for runaway and homeless youth were utilized during both the 1991 and 1992 conferences.

> **Runaway:** Youth who leave home and return at a later date. If the objective is to return the youth to a home environment or group care, then the youth is a runaway.
>
> **Homeless:** Youth who leave home and do not return or periodically return to destructive home environments. If the objective is preparation for independent living then the youth is homeless. Homeless youth do not have any apparent legal means of financial support.

Alaska Statute 47.10.390 defines a runaway minor as "a person under 18 years of age who:

(A) is habitually absent from home;
(B) refuses to accept available care;
(C) has no parent, guardian, custodian, or relative able or willing to provide care; or
(D) has been physically abandoned by
  (i) both parents;
  (ii) the surviving parent; or
  (iii) one parent if the other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated or voluntarily relinquished."

The definitions for runaway and homeless youth used during the conferences are functionally equivalent to the legal definition for runaway youth contained in Alaska statutes.

THE CONFERENCE

The conference was attended by over 85 participants. Presenters were from the national, state, and local levels, and youth played active roles as both participants and presenters.

Staff from the Northwest Network of Runaway and Youth Services introduced material on the Target Population Planning Model, outlined in more detail later in this report. Participants were divided into interdisciplinary working groups by geographic regions for the purpose of assessing their progress over the past year. They were asked to describe the core group which had developed as a result of last year's conference and describe its activities. Participants were also asked to review the numbers for runaway and homeless youth reported last year and update the numbers for this year. Finally, participants were asked to determine their current needs and goals.

Estimated Numbers of Runaway Youth

Conference participants reviewed the number of youth in their area on the run each day, the number of youth who run away each year, and the total number of runaway incidents per year. An incident is defined as each time a youth runs away. The total number of incidents includes multiple runs by each individual. Many communities reported no changes between 1991 and 1992 figures. In the following table, changes are in bold print.

ESTIMATE
COMPARISON OF 1991 AND 1992 DATA

AREA	INCIDENTS/YEAR		YOUTH/YEAR	
	91	92	91	92
Matanuska-Susitna	1,200	**1,200+**	600	**600+**
Southeast Alaska	1,500	1,500	300	300
Greater Fairbanks	2,500	**2,500+**	450	450
Bethel	450	450	150	150
Nome	285	285	100	100
Barrow	300	300	100	100
Anchorage	4,500	4,500	1,500	**2,500**
Kenai Peninsula	1,825	1,825	250	250
Kodiak	1,095	1,095	60	**60+**
Totals	13,655	**13,655+**	3,510	**4,510+**

Estimated Numbers Of Homeless Youth

Conference participants were asked to review the 1991 homeless figures and note any changes for 1992. Changes between 1991 and 1992 are in bold print.

ESTIMATE
COMPARISON OF 1991 AND 1992 DATA

AREA	YOUTH/YEAR 91	YOUTH/YEAR 92
Matanuska-Susitna	300	300
Anchorage	1,000	1,000
Fairbanks	200	**300+**
Barrow	10	10
Bethel	50	50
Nome	10	10
Kodiak	30	30
Kenai Peninsula	120	120
Southeast Alaska	100	100
Total	1,820	**1,920+**

Alaska Data Compared to National Statistics

The population for youth in the United States between the ages of 10 and 17 is reported to be 27,150,810. The National Network of Runaway and Youth Services estimates, based on the latest research, that each year 1 to 1.3 million youth run away from their homes and another 300,000 youth are reported homeless. Based on the above figures, the percentage of youth who run away between the ages of 10 and 17 is 4.8 %. For this same age group, the percentage of homeless youth is 1.1%. Nationally, this yields a runaway rate of 48 per thousand for youth between the ages of 10 and 17 and a homeless rate of 11 per thousand.

In Alaska, the population for youth between the ages of 10 and 17 is reported to be 68,003. Data collected from this conference indicates there are an estimated 4,510 runaways a year and about 1,920 homeless annually. Based on these figures, the percentage of youth who run away between the ages of 10 and 17 is 6.6% and the percentage of homeless is 2.8% This produces a runaway rate of 66 per thousand for youth between the age of 10 and 17 and a homeless rate of 28 per thousand.

To provide additional comparisons, the figures reported by conference participants were compared to figures compiled from a national survey conducted by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO). GAO figures were based on records of 44,274 youth served from October 1985 through June 1988 in federally funded runaway and homeless youth basic center programs.[1]

RUNAWAY and HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHICS

	Gender
GAO Report	65 % of runaways were female
Alaska	50% of runaways in the Mat-Su, Kodiak and Anchorage area were female
	55% of runaways in the communities of Juneau, Fairbanks, Bethel and Nome were female
	66% of runaways on the Kenai Peninsula were female
	70% of runaways in Barrow were female

[1] United States General Accounting Office. Homeless & Runaway Youth Receiving Services at Federally Funded Shelters, Washington D.C., GAO, December 1989.

GAO Report	55% of homeless youth were male
Alaska	Statewide, slightly more than 50% of the homeless were male 70% of homeless in Anchorage were male 40% of homeless in Homer and Kodiak were male
	Age
GAO Report	40% of runaways were 16 years old 60% of homeless youth were 16 years old
Alaska	Average age of runaways was 14.5 years 90% of homeless were between 16-21 years old
	Race/Ethnic Origin
GAO Report	Majority of runaway and homeless youth were Caucasian, non-Hispanic.
Alaska	60% of runaway and homeless youth estimated to be Caucasian

Conclusions:

* **The problems of runaway and homeless youth in Alaska have not significantly changed since last year.**

* **The numbers of runaway and homeless youth have remained basically constant over the past year,with some community-specific increases.**

* **No decreases in the numbers of runaways or homeless youth were reported by any community.**

* **Comparison of Alaska's data to national statistics indicates Alaska's youth run at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population and at a younger age than youth nationally.**

* **Alaska's youth are homeless at a greater rate in proportion to their overall population than youth nationally.**

COMMUNITY PROGRESS REPORTS

Mat-Su

The Mat-Su community established a formal core group called The Children's Services Task Force to deal only with runaway and homeless youth issues. The group developed a set of by-laws, appointed a Board of Directors, and amassed a general membership of over 40 agencies. The Task Force has been remarkably active and is well supported by its members. The Task Force submitted a grant for Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth funds and developed a plan for a state legislative pilot program. As a result of the Children's Services Task Force's hard work and success, they presented a workshop on "The Strategies for Community Program Development in Alaska" at the October 1992 conference. The goals the Mat-Su conference participants identified for the upcoming year are:

* Establish a physical shelter with comprehensive services
* Enhance public relations throughout the community

Anchorage

Anchorage participants who attended the 1991 conference reported the following accomplishments as a result of their attendance at that conference:

* Completed an updated Agency Resource Manual for the area and the state
* Met with the Mat-Su Rotary Club
* Assisted the Mat-Su Community Task Force in preparing a grant

There was an increase in service to runaway youth due to:

** 3 additional beds added to the Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation program
** Improvements in programs at Covenant House

A core group to address only runaway and homeless youth issues was not established in Anchorage during the past year; however, prior to the conclusion of this conference, the Anchorage participants formed a working group which will determine if enough interest and commitment exits to form a core group. A meeting place and time have been set and a facilitator selected. Areas to be addressed during the upcoming year are:

* Determine the communities' commitment to addressing runaway and homeless youth issues
* Establish a core group for runaway and homeless youth if commitment exists
* Data collection - how to track the number of runaway and homeless youth
* Consistency of data collection across agencies statewide

Kodiak
After the initial conference last year, participants united to establish a core group that focused specifically on runaway and homeless youth issues. Although more people attended the initial meeting than have remained on the task force, the task force continues to meet monthly and has a diverse representation of community members. Their last meeting included staff from a local senator's office. Kodiak participants concluded that they need to become more formally organized. They plan to write a mission statement and follow the organizational plan that has been so successful in the Mat-Su community. Issues of concern include:

* Runaways are younger - average age is estimated to be 13
* Use of cocaine has increased among youth
* Perceived DFYS practice of picking up youth age 15 and under but not youth age 16 and over

Fairbanks
There is a shelter for runaway and homeless youth in Fairbanks, and participants reported the number of runaways in the Fairbanks area to be about the same as indicated last year. However, the number of youth served at the shelter has increased about 33% over the past year. Fairbanks participants identified the following goals for next year:

* Establish a task force involving agencies and individual community members

  ** The Fairbanks Native Association was designated sponsor
  ** First meeting was scheduled for January 1993

* Increase community awareness of the runaway and homeless youth problem
* Compile accurate data
* Identify all resources

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Homer
There is a diverse core group with representation from area churches, the City Planning Department, and local businesses. The core group meets monthly and is incorporated under Catholic Social Services. A Homeless Coalition also exists.

Kenai/Soldotna
The Kenai Interagency Team and Social Services Task Force has continued to meet regularly this past year. Area legislators remain involved with the runaway and homeless core groups throughout the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

* The Kenai area continues to see more runaway females than males

Goals for next year are:

* Acquire a shelter
* Generate public awareness of the runaway and homeless youth problems
* Broaden the focus and involvement of the Homeless Coalition

Southeast Alaska

Juneau

There is no core group in Juneau that is concerned only with runaway and homeless youth issues but numerous groups deal in part with them. A multi-disciplinary team meets on a regular basis and reviews broad issues affecting the juvenile population. Their immediate emphasis is on completing a comprehensive service plan for youth. Issues to be addressed include:

* Seeing more hard drug use, i.e. heroin in the high school
* Dealing with youth whose parents are addicted to drugs
* Encountering more gay and lesbian youth
* Teen health cards distributed with phone numbers of services
* Health clinic located on site at the Juneau-Douglas High School
* Runaway shelter continues operation

Ketchikan

There were no participants from Ketchikan at the Runaway Conference held in 1991. During this past year, however, an emergency shelter program has been established in the Ketchikan community which can serve runaway youth. Conference participants identified the following goals for Ketchikan:

* Consolidate fragmented service groups into a core group
* Model core group after the Mat-Su Children's Services Task Force
* Keep the shelter open

Rural Alaska

* Inhalant abuse has increased

CRITICAL ISSUES AND BARRIERS

Conference participants identified the following common critical issues and barriers that hinder their efforts in providing adequate services to the runaway and homeless youth population:

* Federal runaway and homeless youth funding is based on population
* State per capita allocations are uneven - Alaska has a higher cost per capita for services than other states
* l0% cut in state funding
* Alaska statutes and DFYS policy are unclear regarding runaway and homeless youth - responsibilities are unclear
* Lack of legislative avenues
* Need for public awareness
* Lack of accurate data
* Difficulty in providing service to runaway and homeless youth whose basic needs are going unmet

CONCLUSION

From the information shared at the conference, it is apparent that, over the past year, individual communities have to varying degrees taken action to deal with the runaway and homeless youth issues facing them. It is also clear that additional services for runaway and homeless youth are still needed across the state to address this segment of Alaska's population. Conference participants identified a need for adequate and geographically relevant resources, additional funding allocations, and more shelters. There was a common request from communities for clarification of DFYS policy regarding runaway and homeless youth. Participants were particularly concerned about vulnerable youth who do not receive services and the perceived lack of legal recourse for those youth who refuse services. The overall desire of conference participants was to make the system easier to serve youth in need.

Alaskans must not let the momentum of this grassroots movement wane. Strategies must be continually developed and refined to support the network of people dedicated to improving the plight of runaway and homeless youth.

CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to have a positive impact on the delivery of services to the runaway and homeless youth population in Alaska, efforts should be focused in the following four areas:

* Development of a statewide data management information system for runaway and homeless youth. This may best be addressed at the state level through cooperative efforts between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Public Safety, which currently enters reports of missing children into a computerized data system.

* Clarification of DFYS policy on runaway and homeless youth.

* Continue community and state planning on runaway and homeless youth needs. A dialogue concerning local service needs and how the state can and does support them should be on-going.

* Need for public education. Myths about why youth run away must be replaced with accurate information and a true representation of the "real life" issues affecting this population.

TARGET POPULATION PLANNING

THE GOAL: To create specific action plans to implement a continuum of care for an identified target population.

A STEP-BY-STEP PLANNING PROCESS

The steps to creating an action plan are:

1) **Describe the target population:** It is critical that a description of the affected target population be clearly established before other planning tasks are undertaken. The population description should be detailed as possible; and include specific demographic and social history information.

2) **Define desired outcomes:** Desired client outcomes must be established before policies and programs can be developed. In other words: you've got to know where you are going before you can decide how to get there.

3) **Develop a continuum of care:** This step states the needs of the target population in light of the desired outcomes. It then defines the types of services, programs and policies that will effectively meet those needs.

4) **Examine existing services and policies:** This phase of the process will establish which programs currently serve the target population and the extent to which they assist participants to reach the outcomes established. Current policies and practices that affect the population/problem should also be examined.

5) **Develop detailed new program designs and policy changes:** Service needs are the apparent difference between the ideal system and the existing system. In this stage of the process, changes to or enhancement of existing programs will be specified, outlines of new programs developed, changes in policy and practice delineated, and referral and coordination strategies negotiated. Rationales for each change or addition should relate to the needs of the target population.

6) **Action plan:** The action plan will detail the steps needed to implement the system of services for the target population. It may include interagency agreements to be finalized, commitments by funders to issue RFP's, an advocacy strategy on behalf of the proposed system, suggestions for ways that policy or practice changes should be achieved, or a list of grant applications to be submitted.

ESSENTIALS OF PLANNING FOR THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

1. Know what the plan is trying to accomplish. Who is the audience for the plan and what are they expecting to do with it?

2. Who is affected by the goals of the plan? Who will have an interest in the plan's implementation? These individuals or groups should be included in the development of the plan.

3. Include all participant groups at the same decision making level whenever possible.

4. Include clients and consumers of service in the planning process where appropriate.

5. Agree to <u>all</u> the planning process before the work begins. Stay with the planned process unless changes are necessary to achieve the goal of the planning process. Agree on where you are going (what the outcome will be) before you determine how to get there (planning the needed services).

6. Use a neutral facilitator. Their role is to guide the group, insuring the established process is followed, allowing the group to fully participate.

7. Consider that facilitators may also provide staff support - doing follow contacts with people not present at meetings; writing draft plans; providing coordination of planning efforts, etc.

8. Delegating staff support functions to one agency or person can make the process run more smoothly.

9. Welcome disagreement, be honest and challenge established ways of doing things. Allow differences to be "put on the table" to prevent sabotaging an open inclusive process.

10. Stay away from planning around concepts-----plan around client needs. Avoid words like "prevention", "intervention", and "treatment". They often have different meanings in different contexts. Describe behaviors to determine service needs.

11. Acknowledge that certain individuals involved in the process have special interests, prerogatives and responsibilities based on their position in their organization.

12. Dedicate time to actively develop trust within the planning group. Trust is a key ingredient in any planning process.

13. Acknowledge that all participants in the planning process are there because they care about the client population, kids. Also acknowledge that everyone has special self-interests.

14. Guide the group from "position based" bargaining in which participants state their "bottom line" outcomes early in the process to concentrating on "issues", i.e.: the concerns that people have and why they have them.

15. Establish an agreed upon method to monitor and implement the plan.

PREPARING AND ORGANIZING FOR TARGET POPULATION PLANNING

PREPARATION FOR PLANNING:

An initial core group/team meets to begin planning the process. Their role is:

*Define the scope of the effort
*Make decisions regarding the content of the plan or information to be gathered
*Determine who will:
  ~define the planning process (individual and/or group)
  ~facilitate and moderate meetings
  ~conduct research
  ~write the final report/plan
*Approve the final plan and recommendations

PROCESS GUIDELINES:

*Provide an open forum, anyone can attend and extend invitations to anyone and/or group that provides services or has contact with the target population.

*Group consensus model - everyone needs to agree on the information and process.

*Be prepared for additional meetings and work after the initial planning day.

*Duration: 3-6 months from initial planning meetings to written document.

*Planning group stays together to oversee the implementation of the action plan/recommendations and to update the plan on a yearly/bi-yearly basis.

THE RESULT:

Specific plans for the target population that include:
*Clear definition of who is to be served and why they need services
*Outcomes desired for clients receiving services
*Description of the elements of a continuum of care for the population being planned for within the context of their community
*An assessment of existing services, policies and practices
*Identification and prioritization of service gaps
*Suggestions and strategies for changes in policies and/or practices
*Model program designs for priority services

STRENGTHS OF THIS PLANNING MODEL:

*Develops a specific plan
*Participants in the process will feel invested in the plan and will support it's implementation
*Local and state funding sources will have clear direction in making resource allocations
*Documentation of needs and the specificity of the plan has credibility with funders, increasing the opportunities for other revenue to assist in the implementation of the plan
*Program objectives and outcome measures can be defined in the planning process thus making the evaluation of funded programs easier
*Inclusive nature of the planning process lays the groundwork for successful coordination of services from a variety of programs, agencies and organizations in the community.

WEAKNESSES OF THIS PLANNING MODEL:

*Those not included in the planning process may not support the implementation of the plan or it's recommendations.
*Those who desire a more comprehensive plan (i.e., one that addresses the needs of all youth) may be frustrated by an approach that they will view as too limited.
*It may be difficult to have consensus on which needs and/or problems should be addressed first
*The planning process may involve a larger time investment than some interested parties are willing to make.

NORTHWEST NETWORK OF RUNAWAY AND YOUTH SERVICES

TARGET POPULATION PLANNING
ORGANIZING FOR REPORT WRITING

BACKGROUND:

1. Brief discussion of the history of Homeless Youth in the community/country
   a. Use data and information from other sources, reports, etc.
   b. Any anecdotal information you may already have gathered

2. Why the planning group came to do this report/study?

3. Information from the burning issues segment of the planning day.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Include any definitions that are necessary for the readers of this report to understand what you are trying to demonstrate explain, etc.
   a. Homeless youth definition that was developed.
   b. Definitions of certain services, etc.

THE PLANNING DAY:

1. Brief description of the planning process and the days activities.

2. The purpose of the planning process:
   a. To compile a demographic, social history and behavioral description of the communities homeless youth.
   b. To establish desired outcomes for the communities homeless youth.
   c. To identify the service needs of homeless youth in the community.
   d. To identify current services, who is providing them and what the existing capacity of those programs/services are in the community.
   e. Identify gaps in services for homeless youth and prioritize those gaps for planning strategies.
   f. Identify strategies for improving the current service system for homeless youth in the community.

POPULATION DESCRIPTION AND DESIRED OUTCOMES:

1. Using the questions and information gathered during the planning day for the description of the population and desired outcomes.
   Include:
   a. Reasons homeless youth leave home
   b. Where they go
   c. Behaviors and problems of homeless youth
   d. Numbers and other demographics
   e. Desired outcomes

SERVICES NECESSARY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES HOMELESS YOUTH:

1. Discussion of what the planning group felt the needs were.
   a. List services
   b. Describe briefly why those services are important or were chosen
   c. List the top five services that were chosen as a priority.

2. What program models are going to work best?

CURRENT SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITIES HOMELESS YOUTH:

1. List of services currently available and what agencies are providing them.
   Include:
   a. capacity of those services?

IDENTIFICATION OF SERVICE GAPS:

1. Discussion of services that do not exist in the community that are important or were a part of the priority.

2. Discussion of services that were identified as not having enough capacity.
   a. How much more do we need?

3. Discussion of highest priority services (top 5) and why they were chosen.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE/STRATEGIES:

1. Strategies for service needs.
   a. local referral and service coordination

2. Strategies for changes in policy and/or practices.
   a. state laws
   b. local system changes
   c. local referral and service coordination.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

AGENCIES REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE

Catholic Community Services/Anchorage
Municipality of Anchorage/Health & Social Services
Alaska Youth & Parent Foundation/Independent Living Program
Department of Education
National Runaway Switch Board
Matsu Drug Free Schools
Fairbanks Native Association/RCADA
Laural Shelter
Anchorage School District
Central Peninsula Homeless Coalition
Reading is Fundamental Inc./Washington D.C.
Homer High School
Safe Harbor
Partnership for a Health Community/Municipality of Anchorage
Matsu Council Alcoholism Drug Abuse
Parents/Foster Parents
Action for Alaska's Children
U.S. Department of Justice/Washington D.C.
Kodiak School District/Drug Free Schools
Division of Family & Youth Services/Fairbanks/Kodiak/Matsu/Anchorage/Juneau/Ketchikan
Department of Health & Social Services/Public Health/Epidemiology
Matsu Alternative Schools
Covenant House/Anchorage
Legislator/Representative Bettye Davis/Anchorage
Yupit School District/Tuluksak, AK
UAA/Justice Center
Local Law Enforcement/Anchorage
Public Safety/Alaska State Troopers
Anchorage Family Court

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT LIST

Cory Bryant
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Loop
Anchorage, AK 99508

Duncan Hunter
Matsu
125 W. Evergreen
Palmer, AK 99645

Lisa Short
Commissioner's Office
P.O. Box 240249
Anchorage, AK 99524-0249

Michelle Hansen
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 240249
Anchorage, AK 99524-0249

Howard Finck
Friends of Youth
16225 NE 87th St., A-6
Redmond, WA 98052

Lisa Rieger
UAA/Justice Center
3211 Providence
Anchorage, AK 99508

Mary Stachelrodt
AJJAC
HC #1-6217 A
Palmer, AK 99645

Valorie Watson
Kodiak Youth Corrections
202 Marine Way #18
Kodiak, AK 99615

Becky Smith
DFYS
415 Main St. Room 201
Ketchikan, AK 9990l

Elaine Christian
Covenant House
609 F Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Lucie Stanton
Catholic Social Services
11127 Frontage Rd. #208
Kenai, AK 99611

Debra Ehsen
Anchorage Partnership
825 L Street
Anchorage, AK 99515

Liz Von Michaelofski
AY&PF-ILP
3745 Community Park LP #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Thelma Langdon
Action for Alaska Children
2363 Captain Cook Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

Jon Stachelrodt
Foster Parent
HC #1-6217 A
Palmer, AK 99645

Linda Mugaas
Foster Parent
311 Ellen Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Dr. Evelia Ehrenbarn
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Lp. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Lesa Robertson
ALCS
4021 Marquis Way
Anchorage, AK 99502

Gail Stadig
DFYS
11723 Old Glenn, Suite 113
Eagle River AK 99577

Susan Davis
DFYS
P.O. Box A
Barrow, AK 99723

Lawrence C. Troster
UAA
3211 Providence
Anchorage, AK 99508

Tamara Williams
AY&PF
4119 Laurel St.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Helen Vickerson
AY&PF
4119 Laurel St.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Jan Chatto
Kodiak School District
Box 3206
Kodiak, AK 99615

Rayna Hamm
DFYS
1001 Noble St., Suite 400
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Diane White
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Loop
Anchorage, AK 99508

Janice Lienhart
Victims for Justice
615 E. 5th Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Becky Judd
DHSS/Public Health
1237 Gambel
Anchorage, AK 99507

Glen Watson
DFYS
1001 Noble St., Suite 400
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Fran Butzhe
DHHS/SSD
825 L St. Floor 3
Anchorage, AK 99515

Sheila Gaddis
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Loop
Anchorage, AK 99508

Sharon Stitz
DFYS
11723 Old Glen, Suite 113
Eagle River, AK 99577

Cpl. Wayne Von Clausen
Alaska State Trooper
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Jane Barnes
Covenant House
609 F Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Andrea D. Miklos
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Loop
Anchorage, AK 99508

Susan Frey
Mat-Su Council on Alcoholism
2901 Bogard Road
Wasilla, AK 99654

Charmaine Ramos
DHHS-MOA
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519

Bob Newell
DFYS
550 W. 8th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Ellen Linden
AAC
Box 231656
Anchorage, AK 99523

Ron Emmons
Anchorage Police Department
4501 So. Bragaw
Anchorage, AK 99508

Mac Armstrong
ADA/HSS
3601 C Street, Suite 358
Anchorage, AK 99516

Lora Thomas
National Runaway Switchboard
3080 N. Lincoln Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657

Laura Merrioll
Foster Parent
450 W. Seward-Maridian
Wasilla, AK 99654

Jean Ann Alter
Dept. of Education
319 Distin Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801

Sharon McMullen
CMS-MatSu Schools
P.O. Box 872715
Wasilla, AK 99687

Diana Seignan
UAA/SWK
2460 E. Tudor #284
Anchorage, AK 99507

Jody Engelman
Juneau Youth Services
P.O. Box 32839
Juneau, AK 99803

Stacy Toner
Juneau Youth Services
P.O. Box 32839
Juneau, AK 99803

Sandy Pevan
P.O. Box 871256
Wasilla, AK 99687

Laura Clagg
FNA/Family Focus
P.O. Box 4675
Eielson AFB, AK 99702

Jeff Prather
DFYS
230 So. Franklin, #212
Juneau, AK 99801

Susan Thomson
AY&PF Laurel Shelter
3745 Community Park LP. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Sister Arlene Boydy
Catholic Social Services
3015 Yale Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508

Robert McCloy
Ketchikan Schools
217 Schoenbar Road
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Linda Perry
DFYS
110 Trading Bay #160
Kenai, AK 99611

Florence Loucks
Family Focus Emergency Shelter
3100 So. Cushman
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Carol Felts
P.O. Box 1314
Palmer, AK 99645

Freda Arnhart
Yupik School District
Box 115
Tuluksak, AK 99679

Candy Sunderland
HC04 Box 9260
Palmer, AK 99645

Shaunie Olson
Homer High School
600 E. Fairview
Homer, AK 99603

Nissan Doucet
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Lp. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

James Christmas
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Lp #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Paul Williams
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Lp. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Carol Ausdahl
410 E. 56th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99518

Fran Butko
DHHS/SSD
2240 Duvoy Court
Anchorage, AK 99501

Greg Van Kirk
DFYS
258 E. Fireweed
Palmer, AK 99645

Brandt Kingslien
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Lp. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

David Berkshire
AY&PF
3745 Community Park Lp. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Carmen Aman
AY&PF
3745 Community Park LP. #202
Anchorage, AK 99508

Connie Munro
Dept. of Education
810 W. 10th St. Suite 205
Juneau, AK 99801-1894

Ernest Mallet
DFYS
P.O. Box 201255
Anchorage, AK 99520

Teresa Johnson
Anchorage School District
P.O. Box 196614
Anchorage, Ak 99519-5514

Cara Dulinski
HC04 Box 9260
Palmer, AK 99645

Susan Soule
Rural/Native Services
DMH & DD
P.O. Box 110620
Juneau, AK 99811-0620

Ginger Baggett
Northwest Network of Runaway
& Youth Service
94 Third Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Gene Shafer
DFYS
230 S. Franklin, Suite 205
Juneau, AK 99801

Corrine McWilliams
NWNR & YS
94 Third Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Patti Becker
Division of Public Assistance
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, AK 99811-0640

William Hitchcock
Family Court
303 K Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Donna Schultz
DFYS
P.O. Box 110630
Juneau, AK 99811-0630

Kathryn Turman, Director
Missing & Exploited Childrens
Programs
U.S. Dept. of Justice
633 Indiana Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

APPENDIX

ALASKA STATUTES

TITLE 47

ALASKA RUNAWAY LAW

Sec. 47.10.141. Runaway and missing minors. (a) Upon receiving a written, telephonic, or other request to locate a minor evading the minor's legal custodian or to locate a minor otherwise missing, a law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to locate the minor and shall immediately complete a missing person's report containing information necessary for the identification of the minor. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after completing the report, the agency shall transmit the report for entry into the Alaska Public Safety Information Network and the National Crime Information Center computer system. The report shall also be submitted to the missing persons information clearinghouse under AS 18.65.620. As soon as practicable, but not later than 24 hours after the agency learns that the minor has been located, it shall request that the Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation remove the information from the computer systems.

(b) A peace officer shall take into protective custody a minor described in (a) of this section if the minor is not otherwise subject to arrest or detention. The peace officer shall honor the minor's preference to (1) return the minor to the legal custodian if the legal custodian consents to the return; (2) take the minor to a nearby location agreed to by the minor and the legal custodian; or (3) take the minor to an office specified by the Department of Health and Social Services, a program for runaway minors licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310, or a facility or contract agency of the department. If an office specified by the department, a licensed program for runaway minors, or a facility or contract agency of the department does not exist in the community, the officer shall take the minor to another suitable location and promptly notify the department. A minor under protective custody may not be housed in a jail or other detention facility. Immediately upon taking a minor into protective custody, the officer shall advise the minor orally and in writing of the right to social services under AS 47.10.142(b), and, if known, the officer shall advise the legal custodian that the minor has been taken into protective custody.

(c) A minor may be taken into emergency protective custody by a peace officer and placed into temporary detention in a juvenile detention home in the local community if there has been an order issued by a court under a finding of probable cause that (1) the minor is a runaway in wilful violation of a valid court order issued under AS 47.10.080 or 47.10.142(f), (2) the minor's current situation poses a severe and imminent risk to the minor's life or safety, and (3) no reasonable placement alternative exists within the community. For

the purposes of this subsection, a risk may not be considered severe and imminent solely because of the general conditions for runaway minors in the community, but shall be assessed in view of the specific behavior and situation of the minor. A minor detained under this subsection shall be brought before a court on the day the minor is detained, or if that is not possible, within 24 hours after the detention for a hearing to determine the most appropriate placement in the best interests of the minor. A minor taken into emergency protective custody under this subsection may not be detained for more than 24 hours, except as provided under AS 47.10.140. Emergency protective custody may not include placement of a minor in a jail or secure facility other than a juvenile detention home, nor may an order for protective custody be enforced against a minor who is residing in a licensed program for runaway minors, as defined in AS 47.10.390.

(d) If, after investigation of a report of a missing minor, a law enforcement agency has reason to believe that the minor is involuntarily absent from the custody of a custodial parent or guardian, the department shall notify the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the disappearance and shall provide the bureau with a description of the minor. The description of the minor must include, if known, the minor's full name, date and place of birth, parent's names, and mother's maiden name. If the Department of Public Safety has reason to believe that the minor, whether born in this state or not, has been enrolled in a specific school or school district in the state, the department shall also notify the last known school or school district attended in the state by the missing minor of the disappearance. When a person who was listed as a missing minor is found, the Department of Public Safety shall notify the Bureau of Vital Statistics and any school or school district previously informed of the person's disappearance.

(e) In this section, "law enforcement agency" has the meaning given in AS 12.36.090. (§ 2 ch 42 SLA 1985; am § 3 ch 72 SLA 1988; am §§ 1, 2 ch 144 SLA 1988; am § 4 ch 202 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The first 1988 amendment inserted the next-to-last sentence in subsection (a).

The second 1988 amendment inserted "written, telephonic, or other" in the first sentence in subsection (a); in subsection (b), inserted "a licensed program for runaway minors" in the third sentence and, in the second sentence, deleted "either" following "reference to" near the beginning, added "if the legal custodian consents to the return" at the end of paragraph (1), inserted present paragraph (2), and redesignated former paragraph (2) as present paragraph (3) and inserted "a program for runaway minors licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310" therein; and added subsection (c).

The 1990 amendment added subsections (d) and (e).

ALASKA STATUTES

TITLE 47

ALASKA RUNAWAY PROGRAMS

Article 4. Programs for Runaway Minors.

Section
300. Powers and duties of the department
310. Licensing of programs for runaway minors
320. Residence in runaway minor program facilities
330. Notice to minor's legal custodian
340. Confidentiality of records
350. Immunity from liability
360. Municipal powers
390. Definitions

Sec. 47.10.280. Purpose of chapter. [Repealed, § 1 ch 152 SLA 1976. For current similar provisions, see AS 47.05.060.]

Sec. 47.10.300. Powers and duties of the department. The department shall

(1) review, inspect, and approve or disapprove for licensing proposed or established programs for runaway minors to ensure the health and safety of minors in the program;

(2) maintain a register of licensed programs for runaway minors;

(3) award grants for the establishment or operation of licensed programs for runaway minors;

(4) submit to the legislature and governor each January a report on programs for runaway minors in the state;

(5) adopt regulations for the administration of AS 47.10.300 — 47.10.390, including regulations providing for the coordination of services to be provided by licensed programs for runaway minors and by the department. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Collateral references. — 42 Am. Jur. 2d, Infants, §§ 14-17.
43 C.J.S., Infants, §§ 9, 10.

Sec. 47.10.310. Licensing of programs for runaway minors. (a) A person may not operate a program for runaway minors in the state without a license issued under this section. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a violation.

(b) The department may license a program for runaway minors under AS 47.10.300 — 47.10.390 only if the program

(1) is operated by a corporation organized under AS 10.20 or a municipality; and

(2) meets the requirements of (c) of this section.

(c) A program for runaway minors shall

(1) explain to a minor who seeks assistance from the program the legal rights and responsibilities of runaway minors and the services and assistance provided for runaway minors by the program and by the state or local municipality;

(2) attempt to determine why a minor in the program is a runaway;

(3) provide or help arrange for the provision of services necessary to promote the health and welfare of a minor in the program and, if appropriate, members of the minor's family; services may include, but are not limited to, the provision of food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and individual or family counseling;

(4) promptly inform the department of a minor in the program who claims to be the victim of child abuse or neglect, as defined in AS 47.17.290, or whom an employee of the program has cause to believe has been a victim of child abuse or neglect;

(5) be operated with the goal of reuniting runaway minors with their families, except in cases in which reunification is clearly contrary to the best interest of the minor; and

(6) maintain adequate staffing and accommodations to ensure physical security and to provide crisis services to minors residing in a facility operated by the program; residents under 18 years of age shall be segregated from residents who are 18 years of age or older.

(d) A program for runaway minors may provide services for the protection of the health and welfare of a person under 21 years of age who is in need of the services and who is without a place of shelter in which supervision and care of the person are available. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.320. Residence in runaway minor program facilities. A runaway minor may maintain residency for a period not exceeding 45 days at a facility operated as part of a licensed program for runaway minors. The minor may maintain residency without the consent of the person or agency having custody of the minor, except that if the court has ordered the minor committed to the custody of the department, written consent of the department is required. The residency may be extended for an additional period of 45 days with the written consent of the person or agency having custody of the minor. A minor may not maintain residency beyond the 90th day following admission to a licensed program for runaway minors without the written consent of the person or agency having custody of the minor and the written consent of the department. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.330. Notice to minor's legal custodian. (a) The director of a program for runaway minors shall make a good faith effort to notify a minor's legal custodian as soon as possible, but in no event more than 48 hours after the minor is admitted to the program, unless there are compelling circumstances that justify withholding notice. The notice must describe the minor's physical and emotional condition and the circumstances surrounding the minor's admission to the program.

(b) The director of a program for runaway minors shall promptly notify a minor's legal custodian if the minor is released from the program into the custody of a person other than the legal custodian or a person representing the legal custodian. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.340. Confidentiality of records. Records of a licensed program for runaway minors that identify a minor who has been admitted to or has sought assistance from the program are confidential and are not subject to inspection or copying under AS 09.25.110 — 09.25.120, unless

(1) after being informed of the minor's right to privacy, the minor consents in writing to the disclosure of the records;

(2) the records are relevant to an investigation or proceeding involving child abuse or neglect or a child in need of aid petition; or

(3) disclosure of the records is necessary to protect the life or health of the minor. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.350. Immunity from liability. (a) The officers, directors, and employees of a licensed program for runaway minors are not liable for civil damages as a result of an act or omission in admitting a minor to the program.

(b) This section does not preclude liability for civil damages as a result of recklessness or intentional misconduct. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.360. Municipal powers. Authority to establish and operate a licensed program for runaway minors is granted to municipalities that do not otherwise have that authority. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

Sec. 47.10.390. Definitions. In AS 47.10.300 — 47-10.390

(1) "licensed program for runaway minors" means a residential or nonresidential program licensed by the department under AS 47.10.310;

(2) "runaway minor" means a person under 18 years of age who

(A) is habitually absent from home;

(B) refuses to accept available care;

(C) has no parent, guardian, custodian, or relative able or willing to provide care; or

(D) has been physically abandoned by

(i) both parents;

(ii) the surviving parent; or

(iii) one parent if the other parent's rights and responsibilities have been terminated under AS 25.23.180(c) or AS 47.10.080 or voluntarily relinquished. (§ 4 ch 144 SLA 1988)

ALASKA STATUTES

TITLE 18

ALASKA MISSING PERSONS CLEARINGHOUSE

Article 7. Missing Persons Information Clearinghouse.

Section
600. Missing persons information clearinghouse
610. Duties of missing persons information clearinghouse
620. Duty of law enforcement agencies
630. Medical and dental records of missing persons
640. Reports upon finding a missing person
650. Civil penalty
660. Definition

Sec. 18.65.600. Missing persons information clearinghouse. There is in the Department of Public Safety the missing persons information clearinghouse. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.610. Duties of missing persons information clearinghouse. (a) The missing persons information clearinghouse is established as a central repository of information regarding missing persons.

(b) The clearinghouse shall

(1) establish within the state a system and appropriate procedures for communication of information regarding missing persons;

(2) collect, maintain, and disseminate accurate and complete information on missing persons for the purpose of identifying, locating, and returning them;

(3) provide for exchange of information on missing persons within the state;

(4) cooperate with private citizens, local law enforcement agencies, and other state and federal agencies in investigations concerning missing persons;

(5) provide training and assistance to law enforcement agencies to promote effective use of the clearinghouse. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.620. Duty of law enforcement agencies. In addition to the requirements of AS 47.10.141 regarding reports of missing minors, a local or state law enforcement agency shall submit to the clearinghouse all missing person reports received by the law enforcement agency that relate to a person who is not located within 48 hours after the first report concerning that person was filed. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.630. Medical and dental records of missing persons. (a) When a person files a report of a missing person with a law enforcement agency or with the clearinghouse, a form authorizing the release of medical and dental records to the law enforcement agency and to the clearinghouse shall be supplied to the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person. The family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person may complete the release form and deliver the release form to the physician or dentist of the missing person. The physician or dentist who receives a release form signed by the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of the missing person shall release to the law enforcement agency and the clearinghouse only that information that is necessary to identify the missing person.

(b) When the family, next of kin, or legal guardian of a missing person cannot be located or does not exist, a law enforcement agency may execute a written declaration stating that an active investigation is being conducted and that medical and dental records are required for the exclusive purpose of furthering the investigation. Notwithstanding AS 09.25.120 and AS 17.30.155, the declaration signed by a peace officer under this subsection is sufficient authority for the physician or dentist to release information necessary to aid in the identification of the missing person. The physician or dentist may only release that information that is necessary to identify the missing person.

(c) Medical and dental records obtained under this section shall be provided to the clearinghouse.

(d) When a missing person is found, the law enforcement agency and the clearinghouse shall destroy all records in their files obtained under this section. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.640. Reports upon finding a missing person. A person who has filed a missing person report with the clearinghouse or a law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the clearinghouse or the law enforcement agency when the location of the missing person is determined. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.650. Civil penalty. The commissioner of public safety, or a person designated by the commissioner of public safety, may file a civil complaint in the district court to enforce AS 18.65.640. A person who fails to comply with AS 18.65.640 is subject to a civil fine of not more than $1,000. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Sec. 18.65.660. Definition. In AS 18.65.600 — 18.65.660 "clearinghouse" means the missing persons information clearinghouse established in AS 18.65.600. (§ 1 ch 72 SLA 1988)

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Family and Youth Services
P.O. Box 110630
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0630
(907) 465-3170

This publication was released by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family and Youth Services and produced at a total cost of $1838, or $2.30 per copy. It is published under mandate of AS 47.10.300 as an annual report to the Legislature and Executive Branch on the status of Runaway and Homeless Youth in Alaska.

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